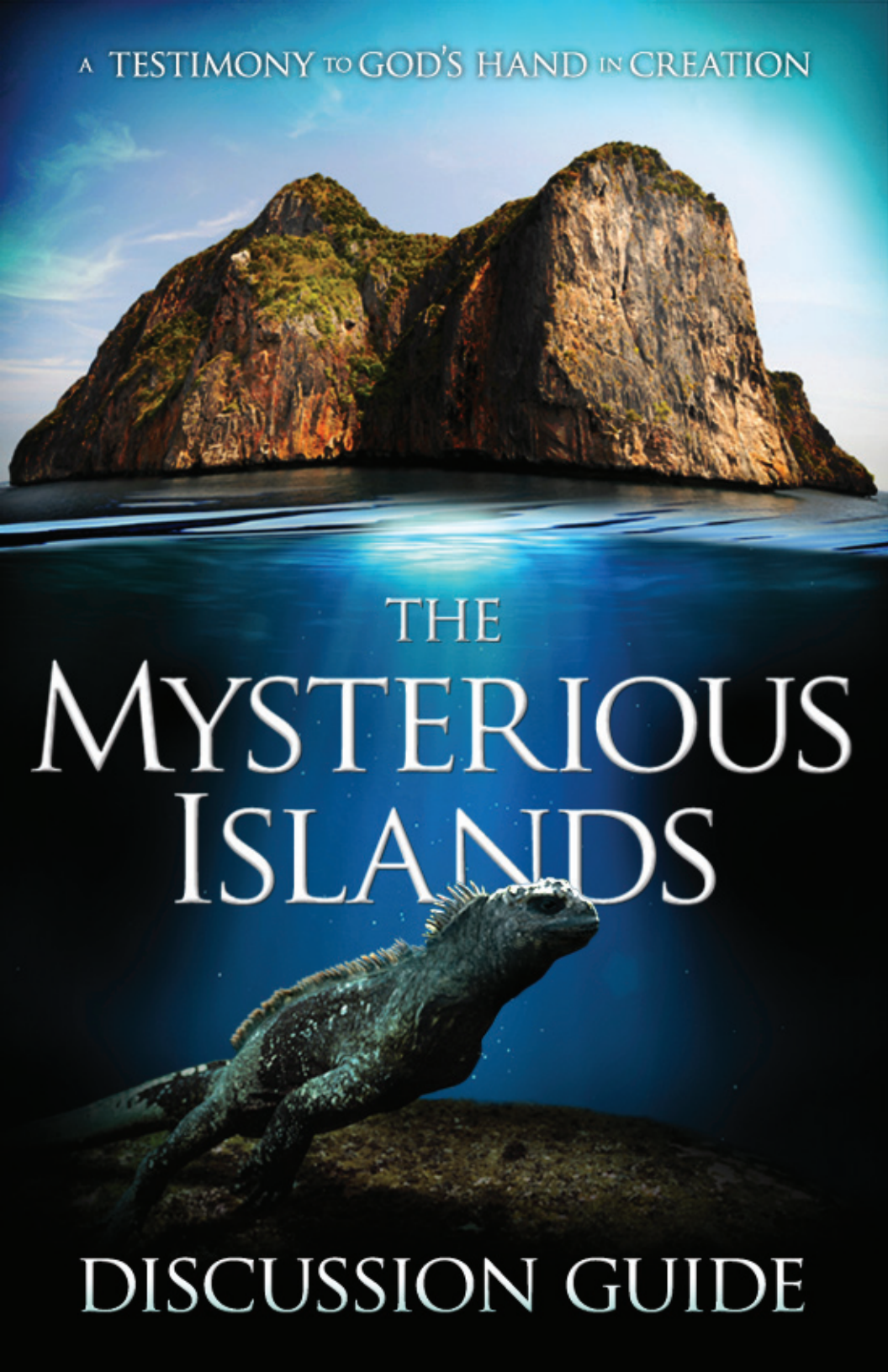
A TESTIMONY TO GOD'S HAND IN CREATION



THE MYSTERIOUS ISLANDS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOD'S WORD VS. INTELLECTUAL SKEPTICISM

ISSUES RAISED

What was the origin of Charles Darwin's disbelief and where did it lead?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

What does the Bible say about the absolute reliability of God's Word?

Psalm 119:89,160; Colossians 2:2-4; Proverbs 21:30; John 17:17

What does the Bible say happens when men begin to question the Bible's veracity?

2 Timothy 4:3-4; Colossians 2:8; I Timothy 6:20-21; 3 Peter 3:5-7; Hebrews 3:12-13; Matthew 12:30; James 4:4

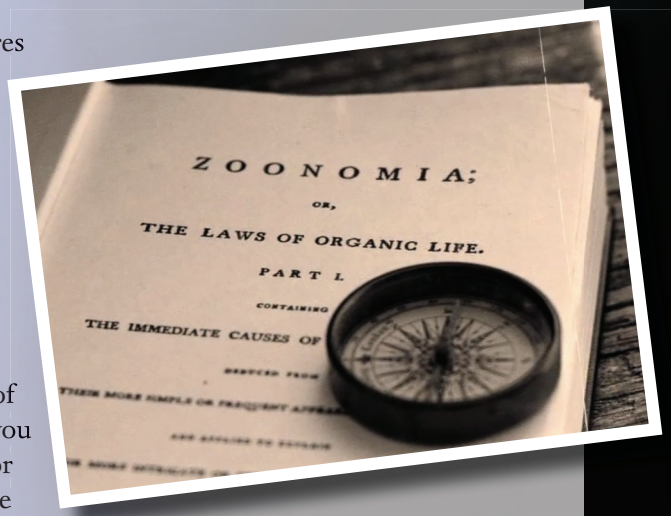
SCENE DESCRIPTION

Filmmaker Jon Erwin asks Dr. John Morris and expedition leader Doug Phillips who exactly was Charles Darwin, and what were the true origins of his ideas and his worldview?

Doug explains that Darwin's worldview journey began as a boy when he was first exposed to the writings of his grandfather, the religious skeptic, Erasmus Darwin. Young Charles embraced the family motto that Erasmus coined, *"E. Conchis Omnia"*—"Everything from shells." He rejected the inerrancy of the Bible and denied the Global Flood, adopting the idea that God created the world, but millions of years ago. It was this theology that Darwin brought to the Galápagos Islands at age twenty-six.

DIGGING DEEPER

Who Do You Trust?



In Genesis 1, God declares in His Word that He created the world in six 24-hour days, and in Genesis 6-8 that He sent a Global Flood that covered the whole earth, yet skeptics such as Charles Darwin's grandfather Erasmus questioned the validity of these propositions. Do you take God at His Word, or do you put stock in those who seek to undermine the Scriptures through "science falsely so called" (I Timothy 6:20)?

Where Does Skepticism Ultimately Lead?



Charles Darwin adopted a confusing idea called the "fixity of species" that led him to come to other faulty conclusions in his analysis on the Galápagos Islands. What is the natural outgrowth of skepticism?

TWO SETS OF GLASSES

ISSUES RAISED

A person's presuppositions will determine how he views the world and interprets reality.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

On what basis is one to believe the Bible to be true and how does this belief in the Bible affect one's outlook?

Hebrews 11:1-3; Psalm 119:105, 130; Proverbs 9:10

When man exalts his mind above God's Word, putting his faith in his own reason, what does he become?

Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 1:7; Genesis 3:1-5; Romans 1:19-25; 1 Corinthians 1:20-25; Ephesians 4:17-20; Isaiah 45:9

SCENE DESCRIPTION

Doug Phillips explains that Charles Darwin had a set of "world view glasses" he was wearing when he visited the Galápagos Islands in 1835. And just as Darwin has a set of glasses he was wearing, the team members on this journey are wearing "glasses" as well. But these glasses are different in that they presuppose the authority of the biblical account of creation.

The biblical view of creation, which Darwin rejected, is under intense attack, and the filmmakers travel to ground zero where key elements of his evolutionary thesis were birthed. They came to identify his errors and to present a correct interpretation of the wonders of the Galápagos Islands.

DIGGING DEEPER

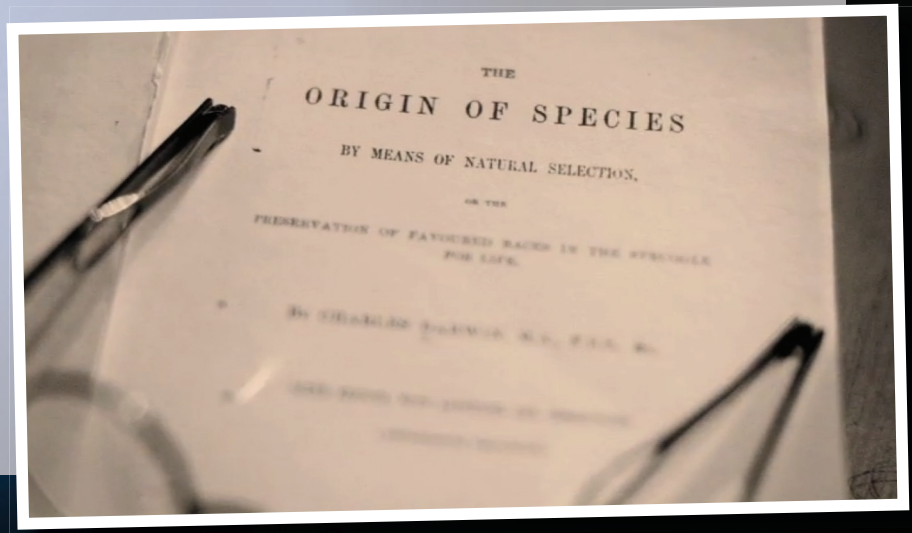
What is a Worldview?

What is a worldview? How do you know what you believe and why you believe it? What does it mean to "presuppose the authority of the Bible?" What was Charles Darwin's worldview?



How Should You Respond to a False Worldview?

God's Word directs Christians to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15); to cast "down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:5; See also Jude 1:30). Are you prepared to refute those who oppose the biblical account of origins? If not, what steps do you plan to take to change this?



AFTER THEIR KIND

ISSUES RAISED

God created animals after their "own kind" with an amazing sequence of information in the genetic code for variation.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

What term does the Bible use to describe the fundamental distinction God instilled in creation between different types of animals?

Genesis 1:21, 24-25, 26-28

SCENE DESCRIPTION

Back on board the boat, filmmaker Jon Erwin asks Dr. John Morris and Doug Phillips probing questions in order to better understand natural selection—the crux of Darwin's theory—versus the creationist understanding that "natural selection" occurs because of the already existing information in the DNA which allows for potential variation within kinds, but that no new kinds are created as a result.

DIGGING DEEPER

Can Animals Change Kinds?



The belief of natural selection as taught by Charles Darwin posits that it is survival of the fittest that leads to certain animals being taken out, while other animals are getting stronger and better by gaining new information and transforming into brand new kinds of animals. Yet has one kind of animal ever been known to change into another?

Do Darwin's Finches Prove Evolution?



The observations that Charles Darwin made about finches while on the Galápagos Islands have been viewed as a star exhibit for the evolution of new kinds of animals. Does the evidence concerning finches on the Galápagos actually support this conclusion or not? What does the finch evidence actually suggest?

THE WONDERS OF DNA

ISSUES RAISED

How could the massive amount of precise and detailed information contained in DNA come about by random chance and natural processes?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

What does the Bible say about God's creation of human life and the intricacies involved?

Psalms 139:14-16; Genesis 2:7; Deuteronomy 32:39; Psalm 119:73; Job 31:15; Job 12:10

SCENE DESCRIPTION

Doug Phillips discusses the intricacies of DNA, a nucleic acid that houses genetic instructions or blueprints accessed during the growth and development of all known living things. It's what gives creatures their eye and hair color and all their distinct features. For all living things on earth, there is an embedded DNA code more complex than any super computer. This level of design sophistication imprinted at the molecular level points plainly to a Creator God who designed it.

DIGGING DEEPER

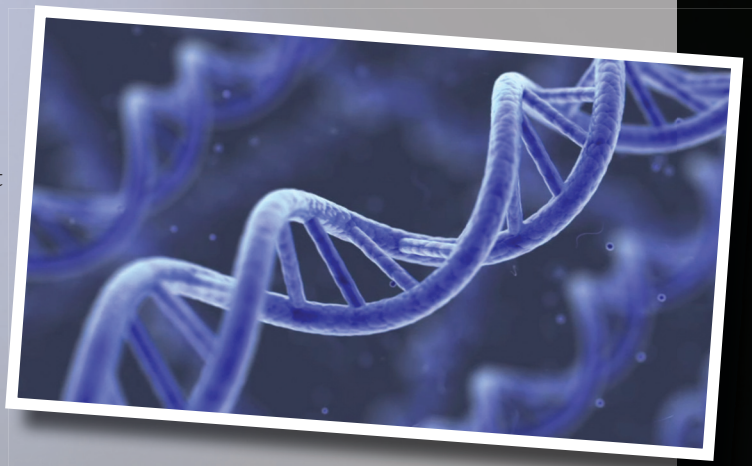
A Pillar of Darwin Upended



One of the key pillars of Darwin's theory was based on a form of Lamarkism. What is Lamarkism, and how has this theory of hereditability been shown to be false?

The Origin of Life Revisited

Darwin maintained that the original spark of life could have begun in a "warm little pond, with all sorts of ammonia and phosphoric salts, light, heat, electricity, etc. present, so that a protein compound was chemically formed ready to undergo still more complex changes." What have those who have studied this issue concluded would be the odds of life generating in such a manner?



UNIFORMITARIANISM VS. CATASTROPHISM

ISSUES RAISED

Are the rates of present observed processes the key to correctly understanding the past, as evolutionists claim?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

What does the Scripture say in response to those who scoff at catastrophism (such as evidenced in the Global Flood) and embrace uniformitarianism instead?

2 Peter 3:3-7

God said that He created the world and sent a Global Flood to destroy it. How can we deny this explanation if we weren't there to witness it?

Job 38:4-11; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16-17; Genesis 7:17-24

SCENE DESCRIPTION

Dr. John Morris and Doug Phillips ride out on a dingy to look at rock formations on the Galápagos Islands. Dr. Morris explains that the various layers were formed by different types of volcanic lava flow which occurred when the islands were created. Dr. Morris notes that the millions of layers of strata found do not take millions of years to form, but only hours during a catastrophe. The reason why modern scientists date all of these rock formations older than they really are is they believe that the rate of deposition has remained virtually constant for millennia.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Mount St. Helens Quandary

If it is true, as Dr. Morris states, that rocks on Mount St. Helens that we know were created during the 1980 volcanic eruption have been dated at 2.4 million years old, using standard uniformitarian dating methods, how can we believe any other dating conclusions that evolutionary scientists reach about the age of various geologic formations?



Life in the Salty Sea

If the earth were millions or billions of years old, as evolutionists claim, and we adopted their explanation of uniformitarian processes, how would this affect the salt level in the oceans? Could life sustain itself with the level of salt accumulation that would occur under the uniformitarian paradigm?



EVOLUTION AND THE DEVALUATION OF MAN

ISSUES RAISED

What are the implications for man's worth and value if he is the result of an evolutionary process, rather than being made in the image of God?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

In contrast to the animals that God made during Creation week, what uniquely sets man apart from all other created beings?

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6; Acts 17:26-29

If we view man as merely another member of the animal kingdom, will that naturally lead us to value him more or less as a creature?

Psalm 32:9; Psalm 73:22; Psalm 106:20

SCENE DESCRIPTION

Filmmaker Jon Erwin continues his journey of understanding the historic struggle between Darwin's theory of evolution and the biblical doctrine of creation by asking Doug Phillips "why can't you just believe in evolution and believe in God at the same time?" The reason, Doug explains, is that in the Darwinian worldview, man is the result of a process, not the result of a Creator God. Among the consequences of the evolutionary worldview has been one of radical racism toward certain people groups viewed as "lower primates" in the evolutionary chain.

DIGGING DEEPER

Evolution Leads to Racism

The Bible speaks of one race—the human race—and declares that God "made of one blood all nations of men" (Acts 17:26). How did such committed evolutionists as Ernst Haeckel and Adolf Hitler view "race" differently, and what were the societal results of their worldview as to this point? How does the treatment of Aborigines in Australia and the story of Ota Benga illustrate the racist evils that naturally flow from evolutionary theory?



The Survival of the Fittest

Both Adolf Hitler and Karl Marx self-consciously applied the evolutionary notion of "survival of the fittest" as an organizing principle for governing mankind. What have been the results of this?



SIN BEGETS SIN

ISSUES RAISED

What is the long-term, generational impact of sinful ideas?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Based on the law of sowing and reaping, whenever wrong and evil ideas are sown, what is the natural result?

Hosea 8:7; Job 4:8; Proverbs 22:8; Galatians 6:7-8

How does the Bible characterize the generational consequences of sin?

Numbers 32:14; Isaiah 57:3-5; Exodus 20:5; Matthew 23:32-33; 2 Timothy 3:13; 2 Timothy 2:16

SCENE DESCRIPTION

Doug Phillips explains the power of multi-generational discipleship for evil. Even as Darwin inherited a legacy of skepticism from his grandfather Erasmus, Charles Darwin's disciples—Thomas Huxley, H.G. Wells, and Margaret Sanger—would take his ideas a step further by applying his biological thesis to social theory and ushering in the most violent century in recorded history.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Spread of Agnosticism



The Theory of Evolution was a key factor in leading Darwin's ardent disciple Thomas Huxley to champion Agnosticism. Huxley admitted, "I know that I am … exactly what the Christian would call, and … is justified in calling, atheist and infidel. I cannot see one shadow or tittle of evidence that the great unknown underlying the phenomenon of the universe stands to us in the relation of a Father [who] loves us and cares for us as Christianity asserts." How does the denial of God as Creator lead to hopelessness and despair?

Birth Control Movement Rooted in Radical Darwinism

The generational impact of Darwin's Theory led to sweeping cultural changes with Margaret Sanger's success as a social crusader. As the founder of Planned Parenthood, she trained millions to abort babies and reject children. She was an outspoken advocate of forced sterilization and referred to the poor, disabled and Negroes as "weeds" who should not be allowed to reproduce. Why do you think rabid Darwinists such as Hitler have been villianized while Margaret Sanger has been touted as a near-saint, despite her openly racist views?



THE GREAT DEBATE

ISSUES RAISED

Are you ready, willing, and able to boldly defend the faith against ungodly worldviews, as Admiral Fitzroy did?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

When God's name and testimony is dishonored by those at war with God, how should Christians respond?

1 Samuel 17:26, 45-47; Acts 17:16-31; Jude 1:3

Should Christians seek common ground with those of opposing faiths when trying to answer their wrong positions?

Ephesians 5:11; 1 Kings 18:21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 1 Chronicles 18:1-3, 19:1-3; Matthew 12:30

SCENE DESCRIPTION

This recreation of the famous debate in Oxford, England between Bishop Samuel Wilberforce and Darwin's protégée Thomas Huxley brings the historic battle of worldviews and antithesis into sharp focus. Emerging from the background, Admiral Robert Fitzroy calls out to the crowd to "believe God rather than man."

Admiral Fitzroy walked where Darwin had walked while on the Galápagos, but he came to vastly different conclusions which he openly expressed during this historic debate.

DIGGING DEEPER

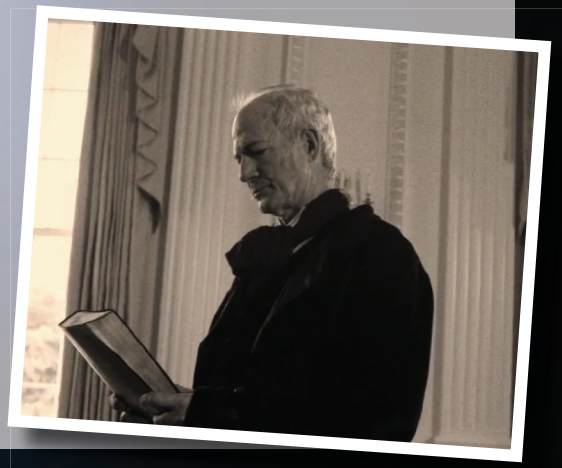
Prepare for Battle



Thomas Huxley was known as "Darwin's Bulldog", and both Samuel Wilberforce and Admiral Fitzroy actively sought to refute his false claims in the famous 1860 debate at Oxford. Are you equipped to refute today's influential "bulldogs" of evolutionary theory such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens? If not, how do you plan to prepare for this?

Facts Must Be Interpreted

Admiral Fitzroy and Charles Darwin were both lay naturalists who witnessed the same flora and fauna while on the Galápagos Islands together in 1835, yet they reached vastly different conclusions about what they saw. This points to the important principle that facts don't speak for themselves; they must be interpreted. To properly explain the facts, you must have the right worldview presuppositions as your foundation. What steps have you taken to identify and master the core assumptions that relate to a proper understanding of creation?



DEATH, ATONEMENT, AND CHRISTIAN SACRIFICE

ISSUES RAISED

What are the implications to core Christian doctrine if one accepts the evolutionary view of death before Adam?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Was there death in the world at the beginning of the universe, as evolutionists claim? If not, when was death first introduced?

Romans 5:12-17; Genesis 2:16-17

While evolutionists make the "survival of the fittest" preeminent, what does the Bible teach concerning Christ's "fitness" as well as what He did for the "unfit"?

2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22-24

SCENE DESCRIPTION

In this scene, Dr. John Morris explains that, in the evolutionary worldview, the death of animals and humans is the basis for progress, the hope that perfection will be obtained through the survival of the fittest. But from the Bible's perspective, death is a consequence of man's sin against God. It's the penalty for disobedience, and the hope of redemption from death is found in the Gospel. Evolution is based on survival of the fittest, yet in Christianity, the most fit of all—Jesus Christ—died to save the unfit, fallen man.

DIGGING DEEPER

Evolution Undermines the Atonement



The fossil record was formed by the death of millions of animals. Creationists believe these fossils were created during the Global Flood, while evolutionists maintain they were created millions of years ago, long before the Adam and Eve of the Bible existed. Yet if we accept the idea that there was the reign of tooth and claw before Adam's sin, we undermine the basis and significance of Christ's atonement. Are you willing to dispense with one of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith simply to believe evolution?

Evolution Leads to Exploitation

In Christian cultures, men have consistently laid down their lives in defense of women and children, with the strong dying for the weak, rather than exploiting them. How does evolutionary theory differ from this, and what have been the consequences when the chivalric code of defending "women and children first" has been set aside?



GENERATIONAL HOPE

ISSUES RAISED

Are you prepared to give a message of hope from God's Word to the next generation?

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

What hope does Scripture provide in contrasting the power of faithful multi-generational discipleship versus the affects of generational discipleship rooted in sin?

Exodus 20:5-6; Deuteronomy 5:9-10; Psalm 112

What are some of the particular blessings God promises for those who train the next generation to reject the world's ways and embrace the truth found in Scripture?

Deuteronomy 32:46-47; Psalm 90:16-17; Psalm 103:17-18; Psalm 144:11-15; Isaiah 8:16-18

SCENE DESCRIPTION

In this scene, Doug Phillips gives his son Joshua a magnifying glass and reminds him that a good soldier of Christ is one who investigates the wonderful truths and stories of God as Creator and passes them on to the next generation. He urges Joshua to take what he has learned during their journey to the Galápagos Islands—the fact that these mysterious islands are a showcase for creation, not a laboratory for evolution—and tell this story to the world.

DIGGING DEEPER

Discipleship a Priority



Scripture exhorts both parents (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; 32:46-47) as well as church elders (2 Timothy 2:2) to make generational discipleship a central priority in their service to Christ. How has Christians' retreat in this area over the last hundred years or so led to an anemic church, and what steps should be taken to reverse this trend?

What's Your Plan?

In contrast to Erasmus Darwin, Thomas Huxley and others chronicled in the film who left a generational legacy of ungodly skepticism, Dr. Henry Morris, father of Dr. John, and expedition leader Doug Phillips have sought to establish a generational legacy of hope that proclaims the greatness of God as the Creator. Joshua Phillips journals that he plans to follow in these men's footsteps and one day tell his children the truth about the Galápagos Islands. What steps do you plan to take to teach the next generation the greatness of God's ways (Psalm 145)?

